

# MYAN ACT

## Minutes

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**Date:** 17th November 2023

**Time:** 10:00am-11:30am

**Location:** In person & online

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### Attendance

Thomas Stevens (The Youth Coalition of the ACT)  
Dr Justin Barker (The Youth Coalition of the ACT)  
Zakia Patel (Multicultural Hub Canberra & Regional NSW)  
Lesley Cioccarelli (CIT)  
Les Seniscal (Barnardos)  
Beth Jones (Headspace)  
Hannah Watts (ACT Education)  
David Pandey (CRS)  
Clinton (Feroscare)  
Ivapene Seiuli (Health Care Consumers Association)  
Mahri Handerson (Conflict Resolution Program)  
Michelle Colebourne (ACT Education)

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### Agenda Items

1. **Acknowledgement of Country**

Thomas opened the meeting by acknowledging the Ngunnawal people as the traditional owners and continuing custodians of the lands of the ACT, and paid respect to the past, present and future Elders, families and ancestors.

2. **Service Update**

a. **Davis Pandey (CRS)**

- i. We have just launched the Family Connections program that is open to referrals.

b. **Clinton (Feros Care)**

- i. Working currently on building connections in the community.
- ii. We are looking for what community supports are needed.

c. **Ivapene Seiuli (Health Care Consumers Association)**

- i. A lot of our work is advocating on behalf of the community for health care needs. We do this through policy, research education and training.

- ii. We've recently been working on a number of submissions that we create in consultation with the community.
- iii. I'm attending a multicultural health collaborative conference in Sydney so that's exciting.
- iv. Zakia, Thomas and I are also part of the Mental Health in Multicultural Communities Reference Group in the ACT.

**d. Zakia Patel (Multicultural Hub)**

- i. Our general service has been busy but our Youth service as been really busy.
- ii. We ran a really successful holiday program in collaboration with a range of different youth services. We are just finalising out January holiday program that we will send out soon.
- iii. Our school programs have been going well. We've been contacted by about 6 schools in the past 4 weeks. We've had to meet with them to find out their needs as we don't have capacity to work with that many schools. We are trying to be careful who we work with. We've heard that in some schools there have been complains and their solution is to just bring in Multicultural Hub. We've also had some wonderful conversations with students and teachers exploring what we could do. For some schools it's more just about providing advice and helping them to start their own program. We feel this is more sustainable.
- iv. We are in Bimberi in partnership with Conflict Resolution Service. That is going well. We are going to evaluate and plan we are going to do there next year.
- v. We've been contacted by the Raiders as they have a lot of Pacific Islander players in both their woman's and men's team. We are looking at doing several events at their new venue.
- vi. Someone asked me recently if working in schools has created more racism, I told them it's more that it appears more evident and it's providing students with the ability to disclose and shine light on what was already happening. We noticed that a lot of the racism is actually coming from teachers. We have 3 students who have put in a complaint have been targeted by teachers. It's been sad to see what's happening but ACT Education has been really good in working with us.
- vii. We've seen an increase in the for mental health support. Our counselling service has been inundated with requests and we currently have a waitlist. We are looking get another counsellor next year.
- viii. MYAN National conference is coming up in a few weeks.
- ix. Our 'Seat at the table' project, which was a governance program for multicultural women ages between 18-30 years, is finishing up at the end of this year. As part of that we had a young person who did a paid youth traineeship with us in partnership with the Centre for Multicultural Youth. This was her first professional job. I'm not sure if the program will continue next year.
- x. We did a collaboration with Youth Law Australia. They came and did a few sessions at Dickson College making students understand their working rights as they leave college.
- xi. Gunners Place is open. It's a collaborative youth and community space between Multicultural Hub, Barnardos, Northside Community Services and Relationship Australia.

- xii. MYAN Australia has restructured to remove with State and Territory Advisory Networks and the Youth Ambassadors Network will be changed. We weren't given a lot of information on this, so we'll have to wait and see what happens

**e. Mahri Handerson (Conflict Resolution Program)**

- i. I'm with CRS as part of the Family Connections program. Family Connections is a collaborative program between Conflict Resolution Services (CRS) and Multicultural Hub (mHub), with a focus on providing inclusive support to young people and their families in addressing family conflicts, enhancing well-being, and reducing the risk of youth homelessness.
- ii. The program works with all young people aged 15-24 and their families with a focus on the multicultural community to create an inclusive and accessible service.
- iii. Eligibility only requires that the young person is at risk of homelessness. If you can identify that risk in any way then it's likely the young person is eligible.
- iv. Ideally we want a family member involved but not necessary.
- v. It's a 2 worker model.
- vi. Referrals can come directly through our website. There is a shorter referral form for self-referrals and a longer one for services referring to make it easier for the young person.
- vii. Find out more about it here: <https://crs.org.au/home/family-connections-program>

**f. Michelle Colebourne (ACT Education)**

- i. I'm part of the Senior Youth Work team in the ACT Education directorate. We were established to provide support to school based youth workers. Our jobs is to support and mentor those school based youth workers to best look after young people. We have been building our connection with schools. We also connect with community services so we make those connections to try and bring them into schools but also allow young people in schools to find out about those programs and access them.

**g. Lesley Cioccarelli (CIT)**

- i. I'm part of the student support team and I look after our migrant and refugee students.
- ii. We've got our open day this afternoon.
- iii. Round two of Fee-free is open. There are less places than last time. Find out more here: [https://cit.edu.au/study/fee\\_free\\_tafe](https://cit.edu.au/study/fee_free_tafe)
- iv. If you know young people from a refugee background wanting to go to University of Canberra they can access additional support.

**h. Beth Jones (Headspace Tuggeranong)**

- i. I'm the community engagement officer for Headspace Tuggeranong.
- ii. For the last few months, we've focused on the cost of living. We've seen a bit impact on their mental health as they struggle to be independent. For instance trying to get their own car, pay for rent or food.

- iii. We aimed to host a big community expo in collaboration with a range of community services but weren't about to due to a fire. We were however able to create a Zine with the Youth Reference Group. It's a recipe Zine budget easy to make meals in it.
- iv. We went to Parliament house recently and spoke to a number of Senators about what we are seeing young people struggle with.
- v. We've also been focusing on doing a physical review of the service. We are trying to focus on making multicultural young people feel welcome in our service. We are looking to commission some artists. We would also welcome ideas on how we can make the service more welcoming.
- vi. We are looking for volunteers for 2024. We are looking for young people 16-25 who are wanting to advocate for better youth support in their community.

### **3. Youth Co Update**

- a. Our latest sector bulletin can be found here: [The Youth Coalition of the ACT \(campaign-archive.com\)](https://www.youthcoalition.net/campaign-archive.com)
- b. To stay up to date with what we are doing subscribe to our sector bulletin here: <https://www.youthcoalition.net/>
- c. Raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility – The legislation has been passed which means the age will change to 12, and then about mid 2025 it will change to 14. There is a suite of services in both the government and community sector to fill some of those gaps.
- d. Child and young persons act – There have been changes to the act recently. Bill 1 has passed with minor changes. Bill 2 is going to be passed soon. Submissions close last week. I've asked them to do a session with the community sector to explain the changes. They said they might do that after the changes have been made. There are changes to what counts as abuse and neglect and who is a mandatory reporter. I think it will be important for workers to understand what it means for them working with young people.
- e. Child and Youth Mental Health Alliance – The Alliance aims to provide a structured, formal mechanism for government, community stakeholders, the private sector and people with lived experience, to connect and work collaboratively towards improving mental health service system responses for children and young people. The Alliance is led by OMHW, CHN and the Youth Coalition, with support from a Coordinating Committee of key stakeholders.
- f. Gambling – We are planning on running a session next year around gambling and how it effects of gambling on the multicultural community.
- g. YWPN – We had a session last week on Vaping. Resources can be found here: <https://www.youthcoalition.net/youth-worker-practice-network/>
- h. Talk to them training - During the training, we will equip you with the necessary knowledge and confidence to initiate discussions about Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) with young people. Youth workers play a vital role in engaging with young people and providing them with support. This training will increase your capacity to understand, recognise and respond to DFV issues, safely refer the young person and/or family to specialist DFV services, and continue to support them as they navigate the specialist DFV support system. For more info

and to register: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/the-youth-coalition-of-the-act-51107293203>